

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 CA-01 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 /070 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2622

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6726

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, BDIS (SAHEKI, AKIRA)
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO U.S. CITIZEN

A) SEOUL 6629; B) STATE 190367 AND PREVIOUS; C) SEOUL 5817;
D) STATE 167956 AND PREVIOUS

1. INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH DPM NAM TOK-U AND OTHER OFFICIALS
IN THE KOREAN ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD (EPB) HAVE NOT BEEN
SUCCESSFUL. IT APPEARS THAT THE EPB AND FOREIGN MINISTRY
WISH TO HAVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST SAHEKI LEAVING KOREA
LIFTED BY THE POLICE DO NOT. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE
POLICE ARE "UNTOUCHABLE" AND CAN NOT BE EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCED BY
MOFA FOR THE EPB.

2. THE DEATH OF OLINGER, SAHEKI'S PARTNER, AND SAHEKI'S
DETENTION HERE HAS BROUGHT HIS COMPANY TO A CRISIS SITUATION.
THE FIRM IS UNABLE TO CONDUCT ANY BUSINESS UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES AND SAHEKI FEELS THAT IF HE DOES NOT
RETURN TO PORTLAND THIS WEEK FIBREX WILL BE RUINED.

3. SAHEKI AND ALTERMAN HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY
HAVE RECEIVED FEEDBACK FROM WHAT THEY FEEL ARE
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RELIABLE KOREAN SOURCES THAT THE POLICE REPORT WILL
BE UNFAVORABLE AND A DECISION TO PROSECUTE WILL BE
MADE WITHIN A FAIRLY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

4. BASED UPON THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS ALTERMAN FEELS
HE MAY HAVE TO ADVISE SAHEKI TO TRY TO REACH AN
AGREEMENT WITH DONG HWA WHEREBY HE WILL ADMIT GUILT AND

PAY THE CLAIM AGAINST HIM IF DONG HWA WILL DROP THE CRIMINAL CHARGES. SAHEKI MAINTAINS HIS INNOCENCE OF WRONGDOING BUT FEELS THAT PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS DEMAND HE DO ANYTHING NECESSARY TO LEAVE KOREA.

5. AS THIS IS THE THIRD CASE IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS OF AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN INVOLVED IN A TRADE DISPUTE WITH A KOREAN FIRM BECOMING THE VICTIM OF STRONG ARM TACTICS AND POLICE INVOLVEMENT AFTER COMING HERE TO TRY AND NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT WE ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF CAPITULATION. WE FEEL IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE IMPRESS UPON THE KOREANS THAT THIS TYPE OF CONDUCT IS UNDESIRABLE BUT WE MUST ALSO INSURE THAT WE DO NOT CAUSE MR. SAHEKI FURTHER HARM BECAUSE WE WISH TO MAKE A POINT. WE HAVE THEREFORE ADVISED ALTERMAN THAT HE SHOULD ADVISE SAHEKI TO DO WHAT HE FEELS IS IN SAHEKI'S BEST INTERESTS. HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY CAPITULATE UNLESS WE CAN IMMEDIATELY OFFER SOME VERY COMPELLING REASONS WHY HE SHOULD NOT.

6. POST RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT ISSUE A PUBLIC WARNING TO ALL U.S. BUSINESSMEN THAT THEY SHOULD NOT TRAVEL TO KOREA IF THEY OR THEIR COMPANY IS INVOLVED IN A TRADE DISPUTE WITH A KOREAN COMPANY. IF THEY DO, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THEY WILL HAVE AN UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT EXTORTED FROM THEM.

7. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SAHEKI, ALTERMAN, AND THE POLICE INDICATE THAT THE POLICE AND THE PROSECUTOR FEEL THERE SHOULD BE A PROSECUTION. THEY ALSO INDICATE THAT BECAUSE THE DISPUTE INVOLVES TWO COUNTRIES THAT IT IS SUBJECT TO POLITICAL DECISIONS. FOR THIS REASON POST FEELS THAT WE MUST BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE NOTE VERBALE IMMEDIATELY. REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE THE NOTE TO US FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE ROKG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
GLEYSTEN

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